



## STATEMENT

Everyone at Festival Medical Services will have been shocked and saddened by recent reports of the abusive behaviour of some people working for Oxfam and other aid agencies and the apparent attempts by these organisations to cover these activities up.

Clearly these organisations have much to do to rebuild trust, but FMS believes it would be a tragedy if their vital work, that benefits some of the most disadvantaged communities in the world, were undermined or prejudiced in any way by the actions of a few unprincipled individuals. We are pleased to see that Glastonbury Festival has pledged continued support for Oxfam and we shall continue our association with the Lalibela Trust, notwithstanding its links to Plan International.

FMS has a responsibility to do all we can to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone we meet in the course of our activities, especially the young and the vulnerable. We try to exclude unsuitable applicants for membership by obtaining up-to-date DBS checks and checking professional registrations where appropriate. We discourage lone working and roster new volunteers alongside experienced crew wherever possible. We recognise, however, that no system of screening can be fool-proof and we rely on all of our volunteers to take some responsibility for the actions of their colleagues and guests, as well as their own.

We are currently producing a Whistleblowing Policy, to reassure those who have any concerns and we should like to remind everybody of their obligations under our Volunteer Agreement. Concerns can be reported directly to any coordinator or manager or through the new Incident Reporting App.

FMS is committed to investigating anything that is reported thoroughly, sensitively and without prejudice and to taking any appropriate action, which may include informing people and organisations outside our own.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Chris Howes

Mike O'Connor